

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for a customer premises equipment (CPE) device to auto-configure itself, said CPE device being coupled to an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network, said ATM network having a preexisting Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC) to which said CPE device is to be self auto-configured, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of ATM cells from a digital subscriber line access multiplexer;

checking said plurality of ATM cells for an Operation and Maintenance (OAM) cell, said OAM cell allowing the PVC to be directly auto-configured by having the CPE device by itself obtain a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) and a Virtual Circuit Identifier (VCI) from said OAM cell; and

replying to said OAM cell in a suitable manner.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said OAM cell is used for exchanging control and maintaining the ATM network running.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) communications system comprising:

a digital subscriber line access module receiving a plurality of ATM cells; and

a customer premises equipment device having a mechanism which directly auto-configures to a preexisting Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC), said mechanism receiving an ATM cell, said mechanism checking said ATM cell for an Operation and Maintenance (OAM) cell, said OAM cell allowing self configuring said PVC by reading a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) and a Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) from said OAM, and said mechanism replying to said OAM cell in a suitable manner.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) An Asynchronous Transfer Mode communications system in accordance with claim 8, wherein said OAM cell is used for exchanging control and maintaining said ATM communication system.

11 and 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A customer premises equipment device coupled to an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network, said device being capable of directly auto-configuring itself, said ATM network having a preexisting Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC) to which said device is to be self auto-configured, said device comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of ATM cells from a digital subscriber line access multiplexer;

means for checking said plurality of ATM cells for an Operation and Maintenance (OAM) cell, said OAM cell allowing said device to directly self auto-configure said PVC by

reading a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) and a Virtual Circuit Identifier (VCI) from said OAM cell; and

means for replying to said OAM cell in a suitable manner.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions, executable by the machine to perform a method for a customer premises equipment (CPE) device to auto-configure itself, said CPE device being coupled to an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network, said ATM network having a preexisting Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC) to which said CPE device is to be self auto-configured, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of ATM cells from a digital subscriber line access multiplexer;

checking said plurality of ATM cells for an Operation and Maintenance (OAM) cell, said OAM cell allowing the PVC to be directly auto-configured by having the CPE device by itself obtain a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) and a Virtual Circuit Identifier (VCI) from said OAM cell; and

replying to said OAM cell in a suitable manner.

16. (Original) A program storage device in accordance with claim 15, wherein said OAM cell is used for exchanging control and maintaining the ATM network running.

17-35. (Canceled)